

Point

ISSUE 6

Fitchburg State College

Wednesday, 4/1/98

Advertising Conference

8am > G04,5,6

Mud Wrestling tryouts

8:30 > Underground

Newsbits

Martha Curtis, a **concert violinist** who overcame epileptic seizures and the effects of four brain surgeries, will present a lecture-performance at Fitchburg State on April 6 at 3:30pm in the Hammond Building's Lounge.

Graduate assist. positions available for 1998-99. Seniors applying to FSC graduate school and matriculated graduate students are invited to apply. The Assistantship offers a tuition waiver for 24 credits and a generous stipend. Application deadline is May 15, 1998. Contact Beth Bisceglia at ext. 3208 or Bev Tata at ext. 3183 for more info.

Business dept. earns accreditation
Fitchburg State's business administration programs have been accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business education, an accrediting body that certifies quality teaching and learning in the field of business. Congratulations to all involved with the accreditation.

Jewish Heritage Series arrives. Rena Finder, who was saved from the gas chambers by Oscar Schindler, will present a lecture at Fitchburg State College on April 22, at 7:30pm in Kent Recital Hall. The event is part of the college's Jewish Lecture Series and is free and open to the public.

Finder, born in Krakow, Poland, in 1929, is a survivor of the Krakow Ghetto, the Plaszow Concentration Camp, Auschwitz and the Brinlitz Factory in Czechoslovakia. She and her mother were among the 1100 Jews saved by Oscar Schindler, during the Holocaust.



We're on the web!!!

www.fsc.edu/~point

FSC Student Instrumental In Pulled Fire Alarm Case

On January 28, 1998, a false fire alarm was pulled in the Holmes Dining Commons. Student Doug Plante was instrumental in reporting the suspect to the Public Safety and in identifying the suspect.

In recognition of his assistance and cooperation, Doug Plante was awarded a gift from Public Safety Chief Brian McCullough, on March 10, pictured here. Public Safety members wish to publicly thank Doug for, "helping us to help you, the students, to keep the campus a secure place in which to learn and grow.

-Sarah Daniel



Year of the Leader creates opportunities Students leadership opportunities are vast and available

There are many leadership opportunities available to all students on campus. Some we hear about all the time (SGA, Orientation Leaders, Resident Assistants, LEED, Peer Ed, Committee Chairpersons), and there are others that we may not be as familiar with (the Volunteer Center, Ropes and Confidence).

This year has been the Year of the Leader here on campus. Guest speakers, like Robert Lewis, of City Year in

Boston, Diane Cautlan of the EPA, and upcoming speaker Martha Curtis; She has and will inspire students while touching on a broad range of topics.

There has been a series of leadership films shown this year. President Riccards presented *Casablanca* earlier this year, and other films including *The Client*, *Truman* and *Glory*.

The Leadership Forum will continue once a month and will highlight a different field of leadership each month.

Continued4

Russian visitors seek hosts

Fitchburg State College will host a group of ten Russian business professionals for the month of April through the Community Connections Program funded by the United States Information Agency. The visitors will shadow with area businesses, participate in an orientation and lecture series at the college, tour the region and be housed with host individuals and families.

The group will be placed with area hosts beginning April 1st and will depart April 24nd for Boston and Washington. If you are interested in hosting one of the group for a portion of their stay, please contact Diane Hickey or David Newton at the Fitchburg State College Grant Center, (978) 665-3368.

ABC wins national award

On February 19, 1998, representatives from Fitchburg State College went to a dinner meeting in Burlington for a very special reason. They were to accept an award for the third best A.B.C. Student Chapter in the country. We triumphed over many prestigious colleges in the country, including Florida State, Perdue, and Colorado State. FSC's third place came behind Texas A&M and Montgomery University.

Work toward the award included community services to the college and outside community, site visitations, charity fund-raising.

Continued4



A.B.C. members (left to right) Matthew Fohlin (Treasurer), Steve Lemmo (Member), Matt McGee (President), and Naomi Cormier (Member)

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McCullough: A Man of Many Talents

The Internet definitely has its advantages. It's how Fitchburg State College found its new Police Chief, or, rather how he found us.

W. Brian McCullough is no stranger to campus life. During his twelve years as Director of Security at Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA, he was a Psychology Instructor teaching Intro, Abnormal, and Community Psychology. The most requested professor in his field, he earned the school's 1995 Exemplary Instructor award. As an adjunct professor, he designed and instructed the Bridge Program," an in-depth program for incoming first-year minority students. He was also the faculty advisor for the Upsilon Phi Delta Fraternity.

As Director of Security, McCullough started Ursinus' first crime prevention program specifically targeting educational and aware-

ness programs. He instituted and approved the RAD (Rape Aggressive Defense) program, and formalized and served as faculty advisor for SERV (Student Emergency Response Volunteers). As Chief of the Fitchburg State College Police force, McCullough hopes to start a 12-week R.A.D. Program to benefit both students and faculty.

Moving from a town of 3,000 people, to a town with a school of 3,000 people is a challenge that McCullough is ready for. He believes that the security here enjoy working with students, and seem to take a pro-active" approach to policing. McCullough looks for feedback from the college community on all levels stating, "It is important for people to feel free to contact officers."

-Emily Jordan

Continued ABC wins

The Leadership News Letter has been printed twice this year and is scheduled for a third issue.

Fifty-five clubs are in existence on campus, and there are four to five leadership positions available in each; many other positions exist as well.

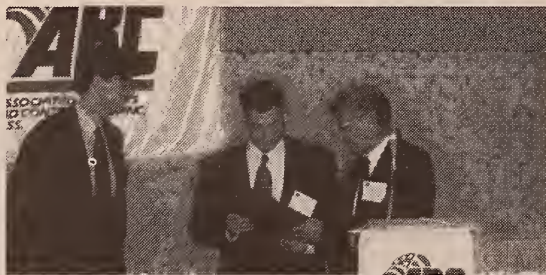
Students are made aware of the leadership opportunities available to them as soon as they enter the school, and are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. So, what are you waiting for? Get involved, make a difference! Talk to people and see what's out there.

Continued ABC wins

ers, guest speakers, building a float for the Falcon Fest, and doing the layout for a playground in Ashburnham.

According to Jim Andrews, the student advisor for the group, "They are a well deserving and hard working group and in particular owe some of this to last years president, Matt McGee."

-Andrew McCrillis



A.B.C. Student Chapter President Matt McGee and faculty advisor Professor James Adams receiving the National Award from Massachusetts President Andy Coull.

HAPPY April FOOLS!!! Several falsities exists in this week's paper. We solemnly apologize for any inconvenience.

Point

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The *Point* considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a *Point* article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labelled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the *Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

The *Point* is the student news source of Fitchburg State College. The reprinting of any material herein is prohibited without the express written consent of the Editor-in-Chief. All material submitted to the *Point* becomes the property of the *Point*.

SGA Election Results

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Trustee, Brett Connoly

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Class Representative, Fred Cappucci

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Representative, William Shea
Representative, Stephanie Allen

SGA to hold special senior election

What many may consider to be good news is the fact that during the 1998 student government elections, both the Masspirg and Student Activity Fee increase referendums were passed.

The elections as a whole, however, were a disappointment. Only 340 students (less than one in ten) voted, the numbers down almost 100 from last year's turnout. The upcoming Junior class had only two candidates on its ballot. Except for the Executive Trustee position, all candidates ran unopposed.

Probably the gravest disappointment came from our upcoming senior class, who had no candidates for any class position on the ballot, and subsequently has no planned governing body for next year. Given that it is the senior class government that coordinates such activities as graduation and the year-

book, this is truly a serious problem. The SGA, after much debate, has decided to hold a special second election for the senior class. All members of next year's senior class are eligible to run.

Those interested in running for senior class office can pick up election packets at the SGA office starting Monday, March 30. The completed packets must be returned to the SGA office by Wednesday,

“The Senior Class had no candidates for any class position on the ballet”

April 10. The election will last from April 21-23, and will be held in the G-Lobby. Anyone with questions or comments should contact Hector Figueroa at Box# 2302, or stop by any one of the Student Government meetings held Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. In the campus G-rooms.

-Emily Jordan

Feel the Vibe

the 16th annual dance show



Feel the vibe with FSC dancers on Saturday, April 4, 1998 when the Dance Club will present the first of two performances of the annual Dance Show. Professor and club advisor Caryl Sickul says “The sixteenth annual dance concert “Feel the Vibe” is sponsored by the Dance Club’s eighty members and promises to be the most exciting concert yet.” Members of the Dance Club and

students in Art of Dance and Making Dances classes will perform twenty-five diverse dances from solos to large group numbers. The pieces in the show range from lyrical ballet, to street funk, and from dramatic theatrical dances to zany athletic dances numbers. Each piece was choreographed by students as well. Special attention was paid to multicultural work, including ethnic inspired music and dance from India, the Caribbean and Ireland. The dancers were also influenced by the opportunity to work with New York based dancer Doug Elkins, who performed on campus earlier this semester. This year, for the first time, there will be two shows. Performances will be held in Weston Auditorium Saturday April 4 at 6:00pm and Tuesday April 7 at 8:00pm. Tickets will cost \$3 for students, faculty, staff, and seniors. General admission is \$5.

-Mary Baker



FSC honored the soon-to-be retired Mary Ann Hanley, Beverly Roder and Mabel (Gin) Sgan last Thursday. The reception attracted students, faculty and administration.

FSC thanked these outstanding individuals for their contribution and commitments to their departments and the College Community.

Student Power

"SGA holds some power, but they don't show it. I'm a freshman. I don't know much about it. They should lighten up and get recognized more."

-Adanna Agbo



"Women have the power. Especially when they wear short skirts and halter tops."

-Mark Sacco



"Student Activities Office. SGA feeds off of them for ideas. SGA members should be more recognizable to the majority of the campus because they do hold a lot of power. But when people need something they go to Tullio."

-Amie Todd



"Administration. They're in charge of the money and they don't like giving it out."

-Stephanie Kretas



"Not me."

-Aubrey Errington



"Dr. Octopus. If he were here, he'd be in control."

-Chip Liscombe



"Short term, it's the President. Long term, students."

-Matt Gauvin



"The students. They're the consumers."

-Student Trustee John Shealy



"The man who wears the pants at the top of the big green pole. He scares me."

-Greg Maguire



"F— em all, F— em all, F— em all."

-Nate Crooker



"Not the students, because if it were the students, everything would run more smoothly."

-Annika Iliadis



What's wrong with

The staff of the Point is reprinting this article from the Fitchburg State College Kampus View (Vol. XI No 5.) of 1966 to show the admirable visions and aspirations of student power and leadership held by students over thirty years ago.

When was the last time you **CHOSE** among candidates for an elective office on campus? And how often have you felt secure enough to present publicly opposing views on campus policies, or having taken a stand, either received a fair hearing or evoked any response? You can't remember the last time? You've never felt secure? Why? Are you bound by the same fears and anxieties that have restricted us?

These feelings are partially engendered by the manner in which the administration and the faculty regard the students' role in relation to the college. The administration seems to have the attitude that whatever it does for us, the students, is above reproach or even mild criticism. While this attitude may not be stated openly, it is apparent in the lack of avenues open to student opinion. It is hardly consistent with the development of responsible, independent thinking in students to expect them to be constantly laudatory in their evaluation of campus activities.

As for the faculty, they fail to correlate views presented in the classroom with support of extracurricular student ventures. Their words are an impetus for action, but words alone cannot bring results. The discouragement of the student's interest in his collegiate environment is detrimental to the development of an academic community.

Nor are the students guilt-free. Their indifference toward and lack of participation in campus activities; for example, the recent SGA Elections and the Winter Carnival Weekend are hardly indicative of a collegiate attitude. Individually speaking, the students are most willing to express opinions and plans for campus projects. As a group however, they too fail to back up their views with support of activity.

Continued

Response to FSC athletics: Cheerleaders not included

I have some points to make regarding the article, "FSC Athletics: Cheerleaders Not Included," printed in the Point on February 25, 1998. It was argued that the cheerleading club here at Fitchburg State should be recognized as a real sport, receive more funding, and book more gym time.

Their reasoning is that the high ceilings in the gym will allow them to experiment with more stunts, and it goes without saying that the extra money they would receive as a recognized sport would, of course, come in handy.

Given these points, I'll say this, I admire the consistent efforts by the FSC cheerleaders to be acknowledged as a sport, but until their reasoning carries more validity, such as competing on a regular basis, like these squads from other school's mentioned in Melissa Robinson's article,

there is no reason why this club should become a recognized sport. Every last club and athletic team at Fitchburg State, as with any other state school, face funding difficulties.

"If they actually did compete, being recognized as a team would be a more reasonable request."

One coach, who wished to remain nameless, said, "Funding difficulties are very typical of division III schools. As a coach of a legitimate sports team, I face problems with recruiting due to lack of funds. And it's difficult to book time in the gymnasium because there is such a long line of teams and clubs that wish to use the facilities. There is only so much time and money avail-

able."

Take for instance, on almost any given night, the gym is booked solid until 11:00 pm, by teams that actually compete on the inter-collegiate level. Nearly every team here

Continued

Continued What's wrong

Is there any reason for allowing this campus to become a farm of 1300 vegetables?

We the staff of the Kampus View, who have been conditioned to regard any stimulating topic or event as not warranting our attention are now making and will continue to make a sincere effort to awaken our fellow students to an awareness of their rights and responsibilities toward their obligations.

We feel that the students' opinions have a definite measure of validity. These views should be expressed and discussed, thereby clarifying student thinking and aiding the administration in its appraisal of student needs. It is not inconceivable that differences of opinion, expressed on all

"Is there any reason for allowing this campus to become a farm of 1300 vegetables?"

Top five Reggie White quotes of the week

1. Homosexuality is a decision, it's not a race
2. Whites are good at organizing business and tapping into money.
3. Hispanics are experts at family structure, with 20-30 people living together.
4. Japanese-Asians are inventive, capable of turning televisions into watches.
5. Indians are great at spirituality.

"When you put all of that together," White said, "guess what it makes? It forms a complete image of God."

levels, could lead to better solutions or new approaches to old problems. We offer our "Letters to the Editor" column as a medium for presenting the views for this college community.

We, as an integral part of this community, are making the first move. It is up to you - the student, faculty and administration - to support our effort.



Reggie White, Greenbay Packers all-star, recently voiced publicly his views societies diversity. See sidebar to the left.

Point honors FSC's most powerful students

All institutions are only as strong as their people in power. At this institution students drive the sled; only a select few jump forth to take the reigns though. Here are twelve examples of student leaders who have greatly influenced this institution of high learning.



Mason is the Campus Center Tournament Director. He is the *alternative-looking* kid that roams the Hammond building with that rad walkie talkie on his hip. He is responsible for the record amount of tournaments that have occurred in Ground Zero. Mr. Fitch has had his hand in the creation and implementation of many on-campus activities. And we all can thank him for many of Ground Zero's changes this semester. He's made FSC a fun place to be (more fun anyway).

We are forever indebted to Mason, because this mighty-mite of entertainment is the man who created the Plinko board for FSC's *Price is Right*. He's also responsible for the M&M lounge's *Gladiator Night*, inflatable wrestlers and joust.

Mr. Fitch isn't *all* fun and games. He has been an RA, Orientation Leader, and had his work exhibited in *Visions*, the Communications honors show. He's the guy with the extreme sideburns. He's Mason Fitch.



Kevin holds the most powerful student position on campus. He is the SGA president (Don't worry. He has no interns). His influence spans

far and wide. He's the *big cheese*.

If you've never attended an SGA meeting and seen Kevin in action, then maybe you're familiar with Kevin Fenton the author. He has written many fine disciplinary reports as one of Residence Life's Resident Assistants.

Kevin has attended just about every campus committee meeting. He's a member of both the yearbook committee, and the business society, as well as the chair of the Student Affairs ACC.

Mr. Fenton also makes time for school work; he was named Who's Who in American College's & Universities and All American Scholar. Everybody's mother is proud of this kid.



Andrea Felix has made more peanut butter and jelly sandwiches than any other FSC student; she recently made and donated 200 Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches to Our Father's House. She seems

to spend most of her free time helping someone.

Andrea is MASSPIRG's Hunger & Homelessness Coordinator; add 700+ pounds of clothing to those 200 sandwiches. Last year she held the first successful Hunger Clean-up on campus. She also raised \$63.00 for the Care & Share Program, a program that provides Christmas presents for needy children. Andrea worked with HIV/AIDS infected and affected children at the Safe Haven camp.

Andrea tells us that after graduating in 1999 she plans to join the Americorps, before "joining the *real world*."

Many may remember Ken as the author of a controversial newspaper article a while back. Most know him as a great guy and active student.

Ken appears uncomfortable in anything but a leadership role. Besides surviving two years as a Russell Towers R.A., he was an FSC Orientation Leader and Task Force Captain.

If anything, Mr. Gibbs enjoys helping fellow students (of all ages). He tutors students in English and is a member of the High School Mentor program.

Following graduation Ken hopes to write scripts for Newline Cinema & *The Source*.



Sean is most known for his special effects mastery on four student films here on the campus including "Koffee Killers". Other than that you might know him as a ridiculously nice guy. He's always willing to help other students with their work, and in their grasping of all the great software available to us. Not only that, he's responsible for making every computer lab on campus accessible to students with disabilities through specialized software solutions and hardware installations. The great thing about his understanding of complex software, is that he teaches himself, having done numerous self studies in visual effects. Then he turns around and holds seminars to teach faculty and students. He's got three more films in the works and he's going to kill me this weekend (in a film). He represented FSC at Siggraph97 (the worlds largest and most influential computer graphics exhibition) and was already sought after by numerous companies over student from much bigger and more widely known schools. He won a national scholarship to go to Siggraph98. Finally he works as the manager of Assistive Technologies at FSC. A leader in every sense, he will be missed when he graduates in 1999. He's got great healthy looking skin .too.





**Tamika
Williams**

Many Freshman and upperclass students have all looked to Tamika for guidance. She has been an Orientation leader and Mentor for FSC's Access program. While keeping up with her Human Services and Political Science work, she's also been active as a member of BSU and Human Services Curriculum Committee. Some may know her voice from her DJ days at WXPL, where she later became the Urban Director for the station.

Tamika will graduate in 1999. She hopes "to help as many people in as many aspects as possible, and to live a long, happy and prosperous life." Maybe she should write speeches for Miss America contestants.

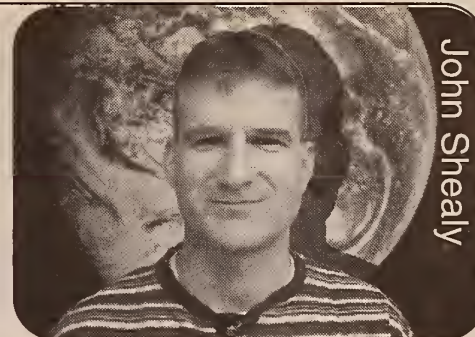
John Shealy is on top of the world. He and Kevin Fenton are possibly the most involved students on campus. But John edges out Kevin simply because he has a little yellow VIP parking sticker which allows him to park anywhere on campus. Now that's power!

His leadership roles span beyond our campus. John is the student representative on the board of trustees and on the Student Advisory Council. That's why he has that magic parking sticker.

Most may know him as Chair of the Crime Prevention Committee or as a laid back RA in Russell Towers. Whether you know him or not, he has affected your stay here at FSC in one way or another.

John is currently looking to reinstate the Veterans' tuition waiver at the Graduate and continuing Education Dept. and to have Cheerleading instated as an official FSC sport.

He hopes to enter a PHD/MD program in biology to supplement his Biology degree. But unfortunately he will be best remembered as that annoying guy who could park anywhere he wanted.



**John
Shealy**



**Vanessa
Manni**

This may sound strange but Vanessa is the only student leader who works in four dimensions. Her honors thesis is *The Fourth Dimension and the Mathematical Imagination*. Besides her eccentric interests, Vanessa's work ethic is at a level beyond most college students.

Vanessa is not only a full-time student, double majoring in Math and English, but she works full time and still maintains her 3.54 GPA. She serves as the News and Opinion editor for the school newspaper, a Math tutor for the Math Skills center, and a member of the honors program. It is amazing that Vanessa can sustain such a strong level of achievement.

She is a dedicated student that leads by example. This May Vanessa is presenting her thesis research at the Undergraduate Research Conference in Boston. FSC is proud to have her as representative of the college.

Keith is the Swiss army knife of student leaders. He has many different interests and talents, and he excels at each of them.

He has held the position of writer, Opinion Editor, Editor-in-Chief, and Managing Editor for the school newspaper. Most recently he took the initiative to create the position of Web Editor for which he is currently designing the newspaper's web page.

Keith has worked for Disney as a Walt Disney World College Program participant and campus representative. He himself has recruited several FSC students for the program. This summer he'll conclude his program participation by interning for Disney Multimedia.

Keith keeps himself busy. He's been a student representative on the FSC Marketing Committee, both an indoor and outdoor track member (three year MASCAC All-Academic), selected for Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities, and a seven-semester Dean's List student (3.6 GPA). A Swiss army knife he is.



**Rachelle
Lappinen**

Since 1995, Rachelle Lappinen has toiled away on what was to be a project for Women's History Month. Her project became one of FSC's finest student achievements. Rachelle has researched, written, and published a book titled *Life in Miller Hall*.

This book was not the result of a lite workload. Her success is also represented in her academic performance. Rachelle has a double major in History and Economics, and double minors in Spanish and Women's studies. She is also a member of the history Honor Society. Rachelle has done more work in her first two years at FSC than most students will complete in four.

Along with her book and academic life, Rachelle has participated in other school activities such as the Headstart Plus Advisor Board and MASSPIRG.

All of the student leaders that we've profiled in this issue are outstanding members within the college community, but Rachelle has created a literary work that has the potential to reach far beyond the walls of Fitchburg State College.

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Dianne Marshall

Dianne is the epitome of student athlete. She has served the school through her four years as

a member of the Field Hockey, Indoor track, and Outdoor Track teams, as well as the Dance Club. She makes us all feel lazy.

Dianne works as hard as she plays; she was selected to the Massachusetts State College All Academic Team and is a Deans List student. She has been part of many campus committees such as Townhouse board of Governors, Aubuchon Hall Council, and Conduct Board. Like many of our student leaders, Dianne was nominated for Who's Who in American College's & Universities.

Besides her academic and athletic successes (MASCAC's leading goalie in 1995 with a 0.84 goals against average), Dianne's leadership roles extend even further. She's been an Orientation Leader, and a nominee for FSC's 1997 Leadership Conference. This year she has been chosen to serve as an Orientation Coordinator.

Mary balances majors in both Film and History with honor student status, while out of the classroom she plays a mean game of

Mary Baker



field hockey. Mary is a model student. She consistently graces the dean's list having maintained her 3.75 GPA while taking time to earn MVP status on FSC's field hockey squad.

As an FSC over-achiever she has been honored by both Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and the Phi Alpha Theta international history honors society. Mary keeps busy with a weekly schedule chock-full of club and committee meetings. She has boogied to Dance Club sessions, served the college on the Public Relations and Student Athletic advisory committees, and is an Honors Program Mentor.

That's a helluva lot for a film student to juggle, she has worked on several films and is currently serving as Director of Photography and Co-Producer on her latest project. She's Superwoman, and a great student leader: A truly powerful person.

When Reggie White spoke to the Wisconsin Legislature last week, the politicians were expecting a five minute speech on the promotion of minority business ownership.

Boy, were they wrong. Instead they got an hour-long speech on the decline of our country's morality.

Before long, sound bites of Reggie's speech were showing up on news casts distorting the meaning of his words.

He mentioned how the act of homosexuality is morally wrong. How dare he? Doesn't he know he might upset someone with such a bold statement?

The man is an ordained minister. He believes in the Bible. The Bible says sodomy is wrong. What does society expect him to say?

He later went on to say how different races have different gifts. That's fine. Though when taken out of context it sounds like Reggie stereotyped every race that graces this planet. Whites are good organizers. Blacks are able to excel at worship. Asians "can turn a television into a watch." Hispanics are good in family structure. Again: how dare he?

Reggie's message was misrepresented by newscast sound bites; we can all work together and use our strengths to enhance society.

So he upset a few people by talking about homosexuals. He upset a few more by pointing out certain races have strengths. Boo-hoo.

I'm glad he did. I'm also glad he did it in front of a group of people who should be saying these kind of thing themselves, and not waiting for a football player to say them for them. God bless him.

-Aaron Barrett

Continued Cheerleaders

does their own fund raising in addition to the support that they receive from the athletic department.

The softball team, who have been competing in the NCAA since the mid 1970's, did not have a field to play on until this year. And this is a team who does have the advantage of being financially supported from the athletic department.

While the cheerleading club may have a legitimate complaint in regards to their lack of gym time, so does the dance club, who dance studio time is often cut short by the cheerleaders, and who also, by the way, do extensive fund raising on their own.

"Cheerleading here is not a sport, and really should not be regarded as such until they actually take part in competition. Cheering for the football and basketball

teams does not make them an athletic team," said one FSC athlete.

In addition, their uniforms are not logged with the athletic department, their mail does not come through Athletics, their funding is handled by student government, and cheering at pep rallies does not constitute being an athletic team. So why should they be recognized by Athletics.

"I think that if they need more time to practice in the gym, sure, give them the time when it's available. But I've never heard about them competing in competitions. If they actually did compete, being recognized as a team would be a more reasonable request," said Beth McDonald, Fitchburg State student.

-Tarra Martinez

Sports|bits

Stop the *MADNESS!!!*

Baseball

The baseball team went undefeated on their trip to Florida winning 27 games during their one week stay. They almost lost to the Stillwood University Browners, but the monsoon wound up slowing down their dominating pitching.

Football

The football team starts up their second season this week with a game against Boston College, their first division I opponent. "We're really excited to be playing division I schools. Maybe now we'll be able to buy athletes like all the other schools do," said athletic representative Ted Watson.

Softball

The softball team is extremely upset over the proposed rule changes for the upcoming season. "We do not want to play with wiffle balls! This is a complete outrage," said team enthusiast Jen Markweather.

Track

Katie Brace has been kicked off the track team due to her involvement with the school paper. There have been too many complaints about her results being the only ones written about. The only way to resolve the issue was for Brace to give up one or the other. She chose the school paper. "My copy editing is just too valuable to throw away," said Brace.

March is the time of year the whole country seems to neglect every other sport in favor of the collegiate basketball tournament known as March Madness.

Right now, all I can say is "Thank God for Bill Parcells." Just when we were about to be mired in the final eight and the final four in the NCAA tournament, where the focus becomes more intense, he rescues us with the signing of Curtis Martin. Hallelujah! Give us some football in a time of need.

Being a football and hockey fan, there are certain doldrums during the early summer where neither of these two sports are in action. Football training camp comes in mid July to rescue me from the lethargic *past-time*, baseball. I enjoy going to baseball games to soak in the atmosphere, but to read about it everyday is as fun as sitting through a double-header between the Yemen and Zimbabwe National Cricket teams.

It's so exciting to pick up the paper in the summer and actually read a hockey article. It could be about Ray Bourque trying out a new pair of skates for the upcoming season. Anything to rescue us from the doldrums of summer. I like a true *man's* sport: Contact sports. I'm not a big fan of baseball and I am a lesser fan of basketball where contact is penalized. I'll concede that baseball offers contact when the runner plows over the catcher; how often does this happen?

Hockey's training camp comes in September. This is where buying the paper everyday is most enjoyable, and it lasts until the end of football season in January.

Then it is hockey's chance to shine - or so it would seem. After playing two months without football, the NHL is geared up for the ultimate tournament, the Stanley Cup playoffs. Then out of the blue comes this March Madness craze. Where did it come from?

For the next five weeks we're bombarded with office pools and tournament grids. It's one thing for people to get excited about the Super Bowl. But college basketball?

If I sound a little bitter about this, you're right. Every year I watch the sports ticker on CNN or *the deuce* for what seems like an hour while it's stuck on the NCAA, and just when it cuts to the NHL they take a commercial break. You're damn right I'm bitter.

Even non-sports fans get caught up in the March Madness. This is what angers me. It's the fact they don't even blink twice to a great seven game series in the chase for the Stanley Cup.

I just pray the hockey playoffs stretch into June, so the month and a half break between the manly sports of hockey and football do not seem so long.

-Aaron Barrett

Sports Calendar

Softball

April 2 vs. Emmanuel College - 4:00
April 4 vs. Salem State College (DH) - Noon
April 7 vs. Wentworth Institute of Tech. - 4:00

Baseball

April 2 vs. Nichols College - 3:30
April 4 vs. Salem State College (DH) - Noon
April 6 vs. Franklin Pierce College - 3:30
Men's and Women's Outdoor Track
April 4 - Fitchburg State Co-ed Invitational